

XM Instant Traffic is a lifesaver for me. I travel for work in the DC/Northern Virginia area quite a bit, and having traffic information so close at hand has been extremely useful to me. The local broadcast stations don't offer traffic updates on such an immediate and regular basis - sometimes, I have to wait as much as 20 minutes to catch an update from the local stations. With XM, I have it in 2-3 minutes, which can make all the difference in the world while trying to negotiate the ever-changing "Mixing Bowl" or working my way around yet another accident in Georgetown.

I had heard a few weeks ago that the NAB and broadcast stations were up in arms about XM's traffic and weather stations, and I realize that there was some kind of agreement that XM would not infringe upon local broadcasters' "turf." My feeling is this: if the local stations can't offer what the listeners/drivers need, and XM can, then more power to XM and too bad for the local stations. The FCC should be looking out for the consumer, not the broadcaster. If the local stations want to compete, then they have to adapt, not just try to force XM out. That's what competition, the free market economy, and business in the United States is all about. XM was smarter and faster to the punch than the local broadcasters, and now they're just jealous and whining because they didn't do it themselves.